

## Message Text

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 PA-01

PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 EURE-00 /049 W

-----130969 311535Z /53

P R 311330Z AUG 77

FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8695

INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS

AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY NICOSIA

USMISSION NATO

USIA WASHDC

AMCONSUL ADANA

AMCONSUL ISTANBUL

AMCONSUL IZMIR

DIA WASHDC

CINCEUR

USDOCOSOUTH NAPLES

USDOCOLANDSOUTHEAST IZMIR

LIMITED OFFICIAL USE SECTION 1 OF 2 ANKARA 6488

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: MILI, MPOL, TU

SUBJECT: TURKISH MILITARY COMMAND CHANGES

REF: (A) ANKARA 6440 (DTG 291319Z AUG 77), (B) ANKARA 6227

(DTG 191425Z AUG 77) (NOTAL)

1. PRESS AUGUST 31 REPORTED MAJOR MILITARY COMMAND ASSIGNMENTS  
AS FOLLOWS: GENERAL KENAN EVREN AS GROUND FORCES (ARMY)  
COMMANDER (FORMERLY COMMANDER, AEGEAN ARMY); GENERAL NURETTIN  
ERSIN AS COMMANDER OF FIRST ARMY, ISTANBUL (FORMERLY SECRETARY  
GENERAL, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL); GENERAL VECIHI AKIN  
AS COMMANDER, SECOND ARMY, KONYA (FORMERLY DEPUTY CHIEF OF  
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TURKISH GENERAL STAFF (TGS)); GENERAL MAHMUT ULKER AS COMMANDER,  
THIRD ARMY, ERZINCAN; GENERAL SAIT OZCIVRIL AS COMMANDER,  
AEGEAN ARMY, IZMIR; GENERAL SEDAT CELASUN AS DEPUTY CHIEF,  
TGS; GENERAL SELAHATTIN DEMIRCIOGLU AS PERMANENT UNDERSECRETARY,  
MINISTRY OF DEFENSE (SUCCEEDING ADMIRAL BULENT ULUSU WHO HAS  
BECOME NAVY COMMANDER); AIR FORCE GENERAL TAHSIN SAHINKAYA  
AS SECRETARY GENERAL, NATIONAL SECURITY COUNCIL (FORMERLY

TURKISH MILITARY DEPUTY TO CENTO); LIEUTENANT GENERAL HASAN SAYDAN AS J-3, TGS; VICE ADMIRAL NEJAT SERIM AS NAVY CHIEF-OF-STAFF; LIEUTENANT GENERAL SEDAT GUNERAL AS J-5, TGS; AND GENERAL NECDET URUG AS MEMBER OF SUPREME MILITARY COUNCIL. ALSO, FORMER TGS J-5, LIEUTENANT GENERAL NECDET OZTORUN HAS BECOME 6TH CORPS COMMANDER IN ADANA AND FORMER TGS J-3, LIEUTENANT GENERAL HAYDAR SALTIK HAS BEEN APPOINTED COMMANDER OF TURKISH FORCES ON CYPRUS, SUCCEEDING LIEUTENANT GENERAL HASSAN SAGLAM. (SEE ALSO USDAO IR 6-898-0482-77, DTG 310550Z AUG 77).

2. MODERATE DAILY "MILLIYET" AND OTHER PAPERS REPORTED THAT ASSIGNMENT DECREE WAS PRESENTED TO DEFMIN BILGIC AND PRIMIN DEMIREL BY TGS CHIEF GENERAL SEMIH SANCAR ON AUGUST 30. PRESIDENT KORUTURK REPORTEDLY APPROVED ASSIGNMENT DECREE EVENING OF SAME DAY. PRESS ALSO REPORTED THAT SEVERAL SENIOR OFFICERS WERE INFORMED OF NEW ASSIGNMENTS IN EARLY HOURS OF MORNING, AUGUST 30 AND IT WAS REPORTED THAT GENERAL ERSIN HURRIED TO ISTANBUL (LOCATION OF FIRST ARMY HQ.) TO PARTICIPATE IN "VICTORY DAY" CELEBRATIONS LATER IN THE DAY WITH PRESIDENT KORUTURK (PARA 7, REF A).

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ACTION EUR-12

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 EURE-00 PM-05 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15  
PA-01 PRS-01 CIAE-00 INR-07 NSAE-00 /049 W  
-----000062 311534Z /53

P R 311330Z AUG 77  
FM AMEMBASSY ANKARA  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 8696  
INFO AMEMBASSY ATHENS  
AMEMBASSY LONDON  
AMEMBASSY NICOSIA  
USMISSION NATO  
USIA WASHDC  
AMCONSUL ADANA  
AMCONSUL ISTANBUL  
AMCONSUL IZMIR  
DIA WASHDC  
CINCEUR  
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3. IN HIS "VICTORY DAY" ADDRESS, PRESIDENT KORUTURK INVOKED ATATURK'S NAME WHEN HE SAID THAT TURKISH ARMED FORCES SHOULD STAY OUT OF POLITICS. HE ALSO CALLED FOR NATIONAL UNITY AND DEFENSE OF THE NATION WITH THE SAME "SPIRIT, EXCITEMENT AND DETERMINATION" AS IN 1922. OPPOSITION REPUBLICAN PEOPLES PARTY (RPP) LEADER BULENT ECEVIT, WHO BOYCOTTED "VICTORY DAY" CEREMONIES IN ANKARA, AGAIN CRITICIZED THE MILITARY ASSIGNMENT PROCESS AND \*"\$#&\*&\*\*\*\*\*#\*\$&\*)"#\*\*\*\*\*E\*")\*\*\*\*\* \*"\$#&\*&\*\*\*\*\*#\*\$&\*)"#\*\*\*\*\*E\*")\*\*\*\*\*E\*\*\*\*\*")\*TG\*\*)\*LIMITED OFFICIAL USE

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AND DIFFICULTIES AT HOME HAVE INCREASED. PRIMIN DEMIREL RETORTED AUGUST 30 THAT ECEVIT WAS INJECTING POLITICS INTO "VICTORY DAY" CELEBRATIONS AND DEFENDED PREROGATIVES OF THE GOVERNMENT TO DETERMINE MILITARY PROMOTIONS AND ASSIGNMENTS. HE ASSERTED THAT COMMAND CHANGES AND PROMOTIONS HAVE BEEN CONDUCTED IN ACCORDANCE WITH ESTABLISHED PROCEDURES, BUT SAID THAT THE RESIGNATION OF THIRD ARMY COMMANDER GENERAL ALI FETHI ESENER ON AUGUST 29 (PARA 9, REF A) INTRODUCED A "NEW SITUATION" AND THE ASSIGNMENT ROSTER WAS ABLE TO BE COMPLETED.

4. COMMENT: THERE ARE STILL A NUMBER OF SENIOR MILITARY POSITIONS TO BE FILLED, AND USDAO WILL BE REPORTING BIODATA AND SUBORDINATE ASSIGNMENTS. WHILE PUBLIC COMMENT AND CONCERN OVER THECOMMAND CHANGES MAY BE DAMPENED SOMEWHAT BY THE AUGUST 30 APPOINTMENTS, THE TRANSITION PERIOD WILL NO DOUBT BE EXAMINED CLOSELY FOR ANY FURTHER SIGNS OF MILITARY-CIVILIAN DISAGREEMENTS.  
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## Message Attributes

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**Review Markings:**  
Margaret P. Grafeld  
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22 May 2009  
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